



Illinois Wesleyan University Digital Commons @ IWU

John Wesley Powell Student Research
Conference

2011, 22nd Annual JWP Conference

Apr 9th, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Right-To-Work Laws Effects on Unemployment and Wages

Duncan Lawson

Illinois Wesleyan University

Michael Seeborg, Faculty Advisor

Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc>

 Part of the [Economics Commons](#)

Duncan Lawson and Michael Seeborg, Faculty Advisor, "Right-To-Work Laws Effects on Unemployment and Wages" (April 9, 2011). *John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference*. Paper 3.
<http://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2011/oralpres/3>

This Event is brought to you for free and open access by The Ames Library, the Andrew W. Mellon Center for Curricular and Faculty Development, the Office of the Provost and the Office of the President. It has been accepted for inclusion in Digital Commons @ IWU by the faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Oral Presentation O1.3

RIGHT-TO-WORK LAWS EFFECTS ON UNEMPLOYMENT AND WAGES

Duncan Lawson and Michael Seeborg*
Economics Department, Illinois Wesleyan University

Labor market relations and any policies that have an effect on these relations should be important to any individual associated to any labor market. One of these policies that has been passed in select states across the United States of America are Right-to-Work Labor Laws. (RTW) These laws effectively limit the powers of the labor unions by allowing workers to elect or decline to join the union or not. The reduction in members brought on by these laws will limit the collective bargaining powers of the unions and successfully limit the powers of unions. It is thought that this should ensure more jobs in the states that have passed these labor laws, creating a lower unemployment rate than states that have not passed these laws. The lower unemployment rate comes at a sacrifice of wages and the states that have RTW laws, it is thought will have a lower wage rate.